

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5 are independent claims. Claims 6-9 are dependent claims.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected. Amendments to claims 1-5 are presented herein, and claims 6-9 have been cancelled. Claims 4 and 5 now depend from claims 1 and 2, respectively. Claims 10-16 are newly added in this response. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Objection To The Title

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the title was objected to as not being descriptive. In view of the proposed amended title set forth above, the outstanding objection to the title should be resolved.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In item 5 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the KEEMUX KVM Switch by Network Technology Inc. The Examiner also rejected claims 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the KEEMUX KVM switch in view of Asprey (U.S. Patent No. 5,227,666). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons presented below.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites, as amended, a "PC switching device, installed between a keyboard without a power control key and a plurality of personal computers, intended for keyboards with power control keys, ... a plurality of power control switches corresponding respectively to the plurality of personal computers; recognizing means for recognizing that some of the plurality of personal computers, which correspond to at least one of the plurality of power control switches firstly pressed, are in a power-on state; selective inputting means for selectively inputting commands from one set of input devices, including the keyboard without a power control key, to one of the plurality of personal computers; and code transmitting means for transmitting codes

assigned to the power control switches to certain ones of the personal computers and powering off the same when the certain ones of the personal computers in the power-on state are selected by the selective inputting means and the power control switches that correspond to the certain ones of the personal computers in the power-on state are pressed again.”

In the present invention, as specified in claim 1, a power control switch of a PC switching device will not transmit key codes when a corresponding port (PC) is not selected, even if the corresponding port is in a power-on state. This feature is advantageous in that an operator cannot turn the power off unintentionally, even if the operator presses the power control key for a non-selected port (PC).

Referring to Figs. 8-10 of the present specification, when a keyboard without a power control key is used to control power for a plurality of personal computers that are intended to be controlled by a keyboard with a power control key, a main CPU 710 transmits codes to turn off power only to certain ones of the personal computers when the following conditions are satisfied: (1) the certain ones of the personal computers are recognized to be in a power-on state by the recognizing means (power monitoring 1 to 4); (2) a power control switch (PC-PSW1 to PC-PSW4) is pressed again; and (3) the certain ones of the personal computers are selected by the selective inputting means (changeover switch 716).

It is the position of the applicants that the KEEMUX KVM Switch does not teach or suggest the above features. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claim 2

Independent claim 2 recites, as amended, a “PC switching device installed between a keyboard with a power control key and a plurality of personal computers intended for keyboards with power control keys, comprising: powering means for powering all of the plurality of personal computers simultaneously by pressing the power control key on the keyboard when the plurality of personal computers are in a power-off state; recognizing means for recognizing that all of the plurality of personal computers are in the power-on state; selective inputting means for selectively inputting commands from one set of input devices, including the keyboard with a power control key, to one of the plurality of personal computers; and code transmitting means for transmitting a code assigned to the power control key to certain ones of the personal

computers and powering off the same, when the certain ones of the personal computers recognized as being in the power-on state by the recognizing means are selected by the selective inputting means and the power control key on the keyboard is pressed again to power off the certain ones of the personal computers."

In the present invention, as specified in claim 2, the PC switching device powers multiple PCs simultaneously when a power control key is pressed on the keyboard connected to the PC switching device. The power is turned off by transmitting key codes only to selected ports (PCs).

Referring to Figs. 12-14 of the present specification, when a keyboard with a power control key is used to control power for a plurality of personal computers that are intended to be controlled by a keyboard with a power control key, the powering means (i.e., the lines connecting the keyboard 74 to the *PSW terminals of the PCs 1 to 4) powers all the personal computers simultaneously. The power is turned off only for certain ones of the personal computers when the following conditions are satisfied: (1) the certain ones of the personal computers are recognized to be in a power-on state by the recognizing means (power monitoring 1 to 4); (2) a power control key (KB-PSW) is pressed again; and (3) the certain ones of the personal computers are selected by the selective inputting means (changeover switch 716).

It is the position of the applicants that the KEEMUX KVM Switch does not teach or suggest the above features. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 2 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claim 3

Independent claim 3 recites, as amended, a "PC switching device installed between a keyboard with a power control key and a plurality of personal computers capable of being powered using keyboards with power control keys, comprising: powering means for powering some of the plurality of personal computers previously selected by pressing the power control key on the keyboard when all of the plurality of personal computers are in a power-off state; recognizing means for recognizing that the selected personal computers are turned on; selectively inputting means for selectively inputting commands from one set of input devices, including the keyboard with a power control key, to one of the plurality of personal computers;

and code transmitting means for transmitting a code assigned to the power control key to certain ones of the personal computers and powering off the same, when the certain ones of the personal computers recognized as being in the power-on state by the recognizing means are selected by the selective inputting means and the power control key on the keyboard is pressed again to power off the certain ones of the personal computers.”

In the present invention, as specified in claim 3, one or more PCs may be powered by a power control key on a keyboard by using a DIP switch 717 (see Fig. 15), for example, to select the PCs to be powered on. For example, when all of the PCs are turned off, if only the first switch of DIP switch 717 (i.e., the “powering means”) is selected, then only the PC connected to the first port is powered on when the power control key KB-PSW of the keyboard 74 is pressed.

In other words, when a keyboard with a power control key is used to control power for a plurality of personal computers that are intended to be controlled by a keyboard with a power control key, the powering means (i.e., the DIP SW 717) is used to selectively power personal computers that have been pre-selected. The power is turned off only for certain ones of the personal computers when the following conditions are satisfied: (1) the certain ones of the personal computers are recognized as being in a power-on state by the recognizing means (power monitoring 1 to 4); (2) a power control key (KB-PSW) is pressed again; and (3) the certain ones of the personal computers are selected by the selective inputting means (changeover switch 716).

It is the position of the applicants that the KEEMUX KVM Switch does not teach or suggest the above features. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 3 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claims 4-9

Claims 4 and 5 depend respectively from claims 1 and 2 and are patentable for at least the reasons presented above. Claims 6-9 have been cancelled in this response.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-5 patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under § 103.

New Claims

Dependent claims 10-16 are newly added with this response to alternatively define the present invention. Claims 10, 12, and 15 are each variations of previously presented claim 5. Claims 11, 13, and 16 each combine the features of cancelled claims 6 and 7. Claim 14 is a variation of amended claim 4. Claims 10-16 depend respectively from the above-discussed independent claims 1-3 and should be patentable over the prior art for at least the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding rejections, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Finally, if there are any additional fees associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 11/17/03

By: C. Joan Gilsdorf
Christine Joan Gilsdorf
Registration No. 43,635

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501